

# LOCAL I-S NEWS

*for department store workers*

5, NO. 7

264

NOVEMBER 15, 1953



Vice Presidents George Gurian and Phil Hoffstein (left) watch "yes" votes for Local I-S pile up.

## 1-S Wins NLRB Poll Of 'Saturday Onlies'

By the tremendous vote of 485 to 72 Macy employees who work fewer than five days a week affirmed their desire and determination to be represented by Local I-S. The election, held under the auspices of the National Labor Relations Board, took place during the week of October 26th to 31st. The ballots were tallied on November 2nd at the offices of the Labor Board.

### First Voter



Dorothy Mendelson, BTO

Eligible to vote were 776 "fractionals" and "Saturday onlies" who were employed on or before last April 2nd. Additional hundreds of workers, hired since that date, had indicated their wish to be represented. The National Labor Relations Board, in response to direct Macy pressure, ruled the newer workers out.

The task of obtaining signed application cards and of going through lengthy hearings before the Board became necessary when Macy's reneged on an earlier promise of a "consent" election.

The company's promise was given in the course of negotiations last March. Despite the fact that it was made in the presence and hearing of the officers and the entire negotiating committee the company later placed many obstacles in the path of a speedy vote.

### First Voter

The first voter to cast her ballot was Miss Dorothy Mendelson of the Telephone Order Board. Behind her came hundreds of others in Herald Square, Parkchester, White Plains, Jamaica and Flatbush. To all but 72 of them the Union meant the chance for higher wages, health plan protection and job security.

President Sam Kovenetsky announced that all those coming into Local I-S at this time would be accorded a reduced initiation fee to be determined by the Executive Board. Individuals joining at a later date will be required to pay the full fee of \$7.50.

President Kovenetsky said, "The results of the election clearly prove that this large group of workers is determined to pool its strength

(Continued on page 3)

## Members Condemn Noisy Few; Ask Dues Facts Clarification

By President Sam Kovenetsky

In the very short time that has elapsed since our general membership meeting on October 27th I have been visited by many individual members and delegations. All of them were deeply disturbed and concerned with some of the things which had taken place that night at Manhattan Center.

The purposes of their visits could be listed under three main headings. (1) There were those who came to say that the noise and confusion in different parts of the hall had made it impossible for them to hear or follow what was being said. (2) There were those who came to apologize for the outrageous conduct of their fellow members and who said, in effect, "forgive them, for they know not what they do." And (3) there were those who came and said that after sober reflection they realized that a serious error had been made, that an increase in dues is justified, but that a further study of the proposals should be made. In view of the fact that there have been obviously more discussions about the question of a dues increase since the vote was taken before it, I feel it necessary to set the record straight with a statement of the facts—facts which, by the way, were known to every member of the Executive Board and through them, to the membership.

### Simple Arithmetic

In our most recent audited report, covering the first eight months of the year, makes the question one of simple arithmetic.

During those eight months Local I-S had receipts totalling \$131,695. Our expenses, covering salaries, rent, legal and all other operating costs, totalled \$117,928.96. This left us a surplus of \$13,766.04 for the eight month period.

This surplus is smaller than at any time in our past. It means that, because of the high cost of living, we have been able to put less than ever into our reserve fund for such expected contingencies as prolonged arbitrations and possible strike preparations. This situation came about gradually. Through no choice of our own our rent has increased more than 1000 per cent! We fought eviction from our 33rd Street office for years, while looking for adequate and economical office space. But when they were ready to tear down the building we had to leave and our rent went from \$150 a month to \$1166 a month!

Like everybody else's, the cost of each of our telephone calls went up 100 per cent, the cost of our office supplies soared, and our payroll also mounted. With each increase in costs our "rainy day" savings have grown smaller.

But inasmuch as our expenses included only a payment of ten cents per member per month to CIO (instead of 75 cents) we must take another look at the picture.

Our eight month surplus of \$13,766.04 means that we had a surplus of \$1720.75 per month. If we had paid our full 75 cents per capita to CIO we would have had to spend an additional \$5,200

each month—and that would have left us with a monthly deficit of \$3,479.25, or an annual deficit of \$41,741. This would mean that in a little over four years our total reserves of \$177,899.73 would be wiped out and we would be without a penny!

In order to make ends meet, however, we have been using money that does not rightfully belong to us.

### Why Pay Per Capita?

The 65 cents per member per month rebate we get from CIO is not intended for the sole use of Local I-S. All unions are responsible for the payment of per capita, and a large percentage of that money received by CIO is earmarked for the all-important job of organizing the unorganized.

Our Union, as the cornerstone of the United Department Store Workers of America, receives that rebate of \$5,200 a month to help finance the task of organizing in the department store industry. Successful organization, as every reader knows, is one of the vital keys to preserving the gains we in Local I-S have already won, and of going further in raising our standards.

The diversion of such funds can only serve to slow down the organizing work and deprive us of those added guarantees which we need. At any time that National CIO deems it necessary they would have every right to insist that we turn the full per capita over to them, without benefit of rebate.

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## Promotion Won As Result Of Union Fight

Macy cleared itself of suspected discrimination when they agreed to a trial promotion from a Pack-Cashier job to a selling position in the Toy Department for Miss Irene Ocasio, a native of Puerto Rico with more than eight years of service in the store.

Miss Ocasio had been rejected by the company interviewers because they claimed her to be "inarticulate." Both Vice President George Gurian and Administrator Bill Roschak challenged that claim and insisted that Labor Relations chief Fred Fischer give Miss Ocasio an opportunity to demonstrate her ability.

Until Fischer consented, Miss Ocasio's co-workers were vehement in their contention that she was a victim of discrimination. They hailed the Union's victory as meaning "more than the winning of a promotion."

Miss Ocasio, expressing her gratitude to Local I-S, said, "I am thankful to my Union for winning me the right to prove myself. I am fully confident that I'll make good in my new job and fully justify the faith my Union and my friends have shown in me."

if you . . .  
your husband  
or wife . . .  
or children  
under 18 . . .  
or parents (if you're single)  
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all you have to do is  
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And Rest Assured That  
Local I-S Will Do the Rest



## BRANCH STORE NEWS

### PARKCHESTER

Collections are being taken in the various departments for the purchase of tickets to be used by servicemen for a December 4th dance sponsored by the American Women's Voluntary Services. Some tickets have already been bought and will be used by servicemen of the Kingsbridge Hospital . . . The few women in the store who are active supporters of the AWVS prefer to remain anonymous while they continue their worthwhile work . . . Katherine Hallihan of P6 is the very proud grandmother of a baby boy. May Orzo of P10 is the equally proud granny of a baby girl. Congratulations to both of you! . . . Delighted to have Florence Bettley of P6 back with us after having been hospitalized . . . Congratulations and best wishes for many more to Helen Schreck of Drugs who is celebrating her 25th Wedding Anniversary. Helen is also celebrating the purchase of a new home . . . Congratulations to Margie Lyons on her promotion from Children's Wear to the Men's Shop . . . Mrs. McNamara, Telephone Operator, tells us that her daughter is to be married in Mid-November. We wish them all the happiness in the world . . . Our condolences go to Marie Schield on the untimely loss of her husband . . . Let's really welcome the Saturday onlies now that they've joined the Union team!



Fay Mattimiro

### FLATBUSH



Anne Bowen

The smile of the week contest is over. Ethel Bing (F8) was the second winner. Lou Baird (Telephone Operator) and Whitner Sparrow (Porter) were both winners of the third week. Believe me, each one really deserved it . . . Glad to see Grace Savasta (F10) and Rose Nagler (FBP) and Helen Ryan (F10) back after their recent illnesses . . . There are two Helen Ryans so don't be confused. Helen Ryan (F3) is still out sick. So are Rhea Hennessey (F19), Madeline Bove (F10), Sylvia O'Connell (F8), Mildred Welch (FBR), Oscar Mittner (F12), Shirley Burnbaum (FMC). We miss you all and hope you hurry and get well . . . Everyone sympathizes with Mary Cullimore (F10) on her recent bereavement. . . . The Flatbush Store just passed its fifth anniversary with cake, coffee and fun for all during the day. The five year employees were presented with orchids (the ladies of course), and the men were given boutonnieres . . . The response to the recent election for fractionals and Saturday onlies was great here in Flatbush. Let's really get to those people now and talk up our Union. We've won a lot in the five years since this store opened and it would be a good idea to let them know (as well as to refresh our own memories)!

### WHITE PLAINS

The White Plains Welfare Dance was a terrific success. Our hats are off to Tom Mellela and Nathan Hill for the really fine job they did as co-chairmen of this outstanding affair. We were very pleased to have as our guests the officers of our Union and their wives, along with Administrator Pat Favoino and his better half . . . All of our very best wishes are with Joe Cohen who recently returned home from Presbyterian Hospital. We all wish you a speedy recovery, Joe, and hope to see you soon . . . We are all very proud of the fact that our recent drive for funds for our Local Community Chest broke all our previous records by about 75 per cent. In our one day collection everyone pitched in and did his part. The Shop Stewards deserve special praise and congratulations for their work . . . The election at the end of October stirred things up a bit and we were all delighted to learn of the whopping victory our Union scored. We congratulate the Saturday onlies and fractionals on the wisdom of their choice of a fine and fighting Union . . . As everyone knows, the Brooklyn Dodgers are without a manager. As everyone probably does NOT know, Dodger fan and White Plains team manager Jim Heleringer is rumored to have been offered the job. Any comment, Jim?



Bill Bittner

### JAMAICA



Alfred Chiarella

We had a tremendous turnout of 264 members to our Divisional Meeting! . . . Chris Murphy was elected Secretary to our Store Committee. She replaces Virginia Braunberg who resigned. Congratulations, Chris . . . Replacing Chris on the Union's Welfare Board is Alice Donahue (J6). Be sure to keep Alice fully informed of the people in your department who are out sick. If Alice knows at all times what is going on we can be sure that our Welfare Board will continue to do the fine job it has done until now. Your cooperation is essential! . . . Had a very fine turnout for our recent election. The fractionals and Saturday onlies knew what they wanted and really went after it with a solid vote for our Local I-S! . . . Let's not allow the coming Christmas rush to take our mind or eye off the fact that contract re-opening time is rapidly approaching. Our Union is strong, but let's all get together and do what we can to make it even stronger! . . . Our heartfelt sympathies to Mary Engel of J3 and Mennie Mai of J4. Both of them have just recently suffered the loss of their fathers . . . We're happy to report that Mary Puccio (Soda Bar) and Agnes Robb (J3) are back after having been out ill.

# Members Condemn Noisy Few...

(Continued from page 1)

We would then have to start eating into our reserves.

### New Demands

But if that were the only problem you would be justified in saying, "Well, why not wait until that happens before trying to solve the problem?" Life is just not that simple!

For one thing, we all recognize

## Macy Denies Pension To A 20 Year Man

In their fight against the Local I-S demand for a contractual pension plan Macy's claimed that they were, as a matter of policy, charitably supplementing the Social Security payments of retired workers.

At that time President Sam Kovenetsky, Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and George Gurian and the entire negotiating committee commended the company but insisted that their "charity" was no substitute for written guarantees in the contract.

Macy's has now revealed the wisdom of the Union's leaders in pressing the fight for such guarantees.

### Case in Point

Anthony Dressel, a Freight Elevator Operator, was hired in 1933 at 51 years of age. On October 30, after 20 years of service, Tony Dressel retired and applied for his pension.

At this writing Macy's has rejected his application. Macy's told Dressel that because he had only fourteen, instead of fifteen years of service when he reached 65 years of age he is not eligible for retirement benefits!

Macy's chooses to ignore the fact that Dressel worked six years beyond his 65th birthday and merits retirement benefits based on his full twenty years of service. Instead, Macy's says that Dressel is entitled to no benefits at all!

### Seek Better Answer

Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and George Gurian, who will take the case to Macy's Vice President in charge of Personnel and Labor Relations are determined to do all they can to make the company change its mind. They said:

"If Macy's persists in their arbitrary denial of a pension to Anthony Dressel they will prove themselves inhumane and without a conscience. There is nothing in the contract or the pension plan that prevents Macy's from paying Dressel on his retirement after twenty years of service.

"All Macy's will succeed in doing is to convince many workers of their hypocrisy when they talk of wanting decent labor relations. We are not asking charity for Dressel. We are fighting for something he has earned and is entitled to!"

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Every Wednesday  
5 to 7 P.M.**

that the present administration in Washington is decidedly unfriendly to labor. This has been shown, primarily, in recent anti-labor decisions of the National Labor Relations Board.

Responding to the pro-business administration, employers generally (and that includes Macy's) have adopted a much tougher attitude. Problems that once were settled in negotiations now end up in costly arbitrations. Demands that once were met across the table must now be fought for.

In such circumstances your elected leadership would be guilty of failing in their duties if they did not suggest and plan for the building of bigger reserves with which to carry on our fight. As in all other matters, however, the final decision has always rested with you, since the membership is and always has been the supreme body of our Union. Your decision, I am sure, was not determined by how much your Union means to you.

At the meeting, one speaker properly pointed to the fact that in the last four years members of Local I-S have received general wage increases amounting to \$12.25 a week, or almost fifty dollars a month. The noisy few who were responsible for disrupting the meeting booed that statement of fact. I might add that in addition to those fifty dollars a month we have, in the same period of time, won the health plan which has paid out more than a million dollars. This is money which would have otherwise come out of the pockets of our members in caring for themselves, their husbands or wives and their children. We also won sick leave pay after three days of illness, instead of the previous

five days. This, too, is money in the pockets of those who lose time from work. And perhaps the biggest of all "money" gains is the job security written into the contract. The worker who takes a cut in pay because he is transferred from one job to another to avoid a lay-off would always do well to remember that ours is the only contract which now forces the employer to find him another job. Formerly such workers were simply laid-off. Workers in other department stores, even today, under such circumstances, end up on the outside looking for work.

Last but not least in any listing of Union advances is the caliber of our present staff. We maintain our staff, not to provide jobs, but to provide our members with the personal services that are so important. Our entire office is geared to give prompt and concentrated attention to difficulties ranging from grievances to Blood Bank requests and welfare counseling. The fact that it is necessary is amply proved by the full use made of it by the membership.

I am sure that Local I-S means all of these things, and more, to most of its members. I am equally sure that the vast majority regard these gains as things to be defended stoutly.

That is why so many have taken the pains to personally express their regret over what took place at the meeting. The honesty and decency of the many more than compensate for the bad manners of the few.

I am confident that that honesty and decency will work to set the record straight, even as I have worked to simply set the facts before you.

## MACY FINANCIAL REPORT SHOWS TOP PENSIONS TO HIGH BRASS

While Macy's was still denying that Anthony Dressel (see story in next column) was entitled to the few dollars that would make up the difference between his Social Security payments and \$100 a month, the company's latest financial statement was made public.

It is already common knowledge that that statement showed a 74.5 per cent increase over the previous year. In Mr. Jack Straus' words, "The fiscal year recorded a substantial recovery from the low earnings from operations for the previous fiscal year. The fact

that net operating earnings applicable to common stock more than doubled was due in part to the benefits resulting from organizational changes and improvements both in merchandising and general operating efficiency . . ."

While Union negotiators have often been told by Macy spokesmen that the problems of their staff workers are not the company's responsibility, the financial report shows clearly that the company does assume such responsibility for its top executives. The report listed the following pension and profit sharing rights:

### ESTIMATED PENSION AT AGE 65

Salary	After 15 yrs.	20 yrs.	25 yrs.	30 yrs.	35 yrs.
\$ 25,000	\$ 2,460	\$ 3,710	\$ 4,950	\$ 6,190	\$ 7,430
50,000	5,460	7,960	10,450	12,940	15,430
75,000	8,460	12,120	15,950	19,690	23,430
100,000	11,460	16,460	21,450	25,000	25,000
125,000	14,460	20,710	25,000	25,000	25,000

In addition to which the following Profit Sharings were credited as of January 31, 1952:

Mr. Jack Straus, President and Director of the Corporation	\$165,770
Mr. Edwin Chinlund, Vice-Pres. and Treasurer of the Corp.	95,150
Mr. Wheelock Bingham, President of Macy's New York	75,551

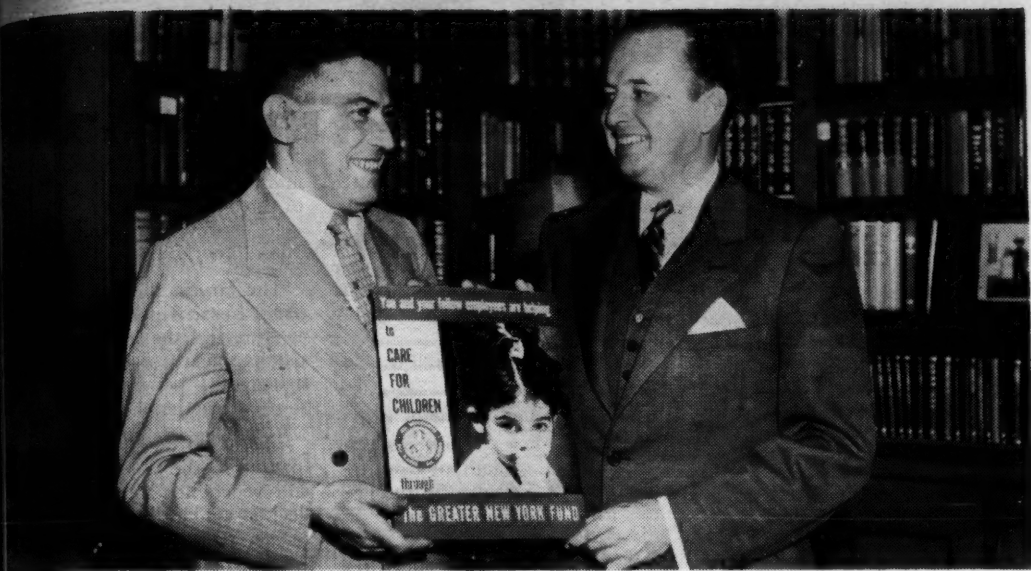
### LOCAL I-S NEWS

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Local I-S President Sam Kovenetsky (left) and Macy's President Wheelock Bingham, join in urging all-out support for 1953 Greater New York Fund Campaign. The Local I-S, Macy unified drive is the first in retailing.

## Good of All Requires Support To Greater N. Y. Fund Campaign

The 8,800 members of our Union make us the biggest local in the retail industry. We work for the biggest store in the world. And we have often proved ourselves to be among the biggest-hearted of people. That is why we are aiming for the biggest possible response to the 1953 campaign of the Greater New York Fund, which is to be conducted between November 18th and 21st.

But, then, everything in New York City is big,—from its natural rivers and harbors to its man-made skyscrapers. This is not bragging. It is the way things are. As Gateway to America, our town has attracted the venturesome people of the world for three centuries as they arrived to help build the United States of America and share in its opportunities. Millions stayed here, and with their hearts and hands created the colossus at the mouth of the noble Hudson River.

In New York we have every complexity of the small-town—multiplied a thousand-fold. We have the rich, the poor; the vigorous, the fallen; the generous, the scoffing. We like to think we have more Greeks than Athens, more Irish than Dublin, more Italians than

Rome, more Jews than Jerusalem. This is New York, big, noisy, sprawling, confusing and American.

Withal, the town has a heart. For years it has supported what is called the "Greater New York Fund," the community effort through which New Yorkers support neighborly services, just as folks do in Strawberry Point, Iowa or Harlem, Montana. Instead of a dozen or so agencies, New York's biggest non-sectarian Fund helps support 423, in five boroughs. The Fund raises money among businessmen and workers, where they work, for distribution among agencies serving hospitals, health and welfare, and recreational groups. Each type of voluntary service is aided, for all races, creeds and ages.

### Help For All

The dollars you give may help maintain a camp for boys or girls, day nurseries, a home for the aged, a swimming pool at the CYO, YMHA or YMCA down the street. Many little dollars become a Big Deal in a town the size of New York.

Labor leaders, AFL, CIO and independent; Business leaders, from rugged little merchants to

the biggest tycoons; religious leaders of all faiths, have all endorsed the Greater New York Fund as the greatest community effort in the five boroughs—but not too big to help you, your relative, your neighbor.

That is the reason the Executive Board and officers of Local I-S have decided to roll up their sleeves and work together with Macy's and representatives of the Fund to help make the 1953 drive a huge success.

### No "Pressure"

That is why, starting on November 18th, your Shop Steward and your Supervisor will make the rounds to solicit your voluntary pledge of a contribution. You will not be asked to make a cash donation. You will be asked to fill out a pledge card on which you will indicate the amount you are volunteering and the number of installments in which you want it deducted from your pay envelope.

Under no circumstances will anyone be "pressured" into giving. The Fund supports voluntary agencies with voluntary contributions. In a letter addressed to all Macy employees President Sam Kovenetsky and Macy President Wheelock Bingham said in part:

"... The Fund helps with no strings attached. They go about their business quietly and efficiently, because people are more important than publicity.

"That is why we ask you, in the same spirit, to do all you can to make this 1953 Greater New York Fund drive the huge success it deserves to be. This is the first time that Local I-S and Macy's are jointly supporting the Greater New York Fund. We are doing it because it is for the good of all.

"Starting on November 18th you will be asked by your Shop Steward and Supervisor to pledge whatever you can and want to give. Because you will be giving voluntarily for yourself and your loved ones as well as your neighbors, we urge you to think carefully and give generously."

In addition to the Shop Stewards who will work with department Supervisors, there will be the Executive Board members working in conjunction with Divisional Superintendents and the officers and staff members of the Union working on other levels to assure the full success of our campaign.

**DO YOUR PART**—Be sure to give!

## 1-S Wins NLRB Poll...

(Continued from page 1)  
with that of 8,000 other members of our Union for the betterment of their wages and working conditions.

Union and to familiarize the officers with their own problems and needs.

### Special Plea

President Kovenetsky was joined by Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and George Gurian in a special plea to all full and part time members of the Union. They said:

"For the next short while your cooperation will continue to be essential to the job of winning the full integration of our new members. We urge you to continue to keep the "fractionals" and "Saturday onlies" in your department posted. At this time we especially urge you to tell them that they will be more than welcome at the Union office and that we will do all we can to answer their questions and make them feel at home. Please cooperate in the job of helping to make our Union stronger than ever."

### Meeting Planned

In spite of the complications created by the many schedules worked by members in the less than five-days-a-week group the Union's officers are speeding plans for an early meeting. This meeting will be the first opportunity the new members will have to become acquainted with the officers of their



## EXPELLED!

### Roll of Dishonor

To their everlasting dishonor, the following are those who scabbed or otherwise refused to abide by the majority decisions of their co-workers.

They have been expelled from our Union and already feel the scorn and contempt of all those with whom they come in contact.

Katherine Barry—Tables  
Jean Benson—MCU  
Adele A. Black—114 Dept.  
Santa Cutroneo—BTO  
Carolyn Donovan—RMMW  
Florence Grace—116 Dept.  
Julia Kroll—RMMW  
Ira Moore—WPC3  
Ceil Selkow—RMMW  
Adelaide Watson—903 Dept.

## HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis YOU MUST see the Local I-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office within 30 days from the end of the month in which you leave the store.

If you, or a member of your family covered by the Health Plan, enters the hospital you MUST call on the Union office for claim forms immediately on entering or as soon as possible thereafter.

Protect yourself—protect your family—protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time!

## WELFARE BOARD MEDICAL PANEL SERVES MEMBERS; SAVES MONEY

Among the valuable services offered by the Welfare Board to the 8,800 members of Local I-S is the medical help of a full list of general practitioners and specialists who work at either a reduced fee or at no fee at all.

A recent report to Local I-S by the Associated Physicians Medical Group indicates that while many members and their families are taking advantage of this outstanding service, there are many who have not availed themselves of it.

All doctors on the Union panel, whether they be neighborhood GPs or distinguished specialists are committed to a special low rate for members of Local I-S and their families. The panel surgeon actually charges the Union member nothing for his services, since he accepts as full payment the amount which a member or his family is insured through the Local I-S Health Plan.

A member using a surgeon other than the one on the panel will receive a check in exactly the same

amount, though this usually does not fully cover the fee normally charged.

Full details of the Union's medical plan are contained in the Local I-S booklet, "Here's to Your Health," additional copies of which may be obtained at the Union office.

Information concerning the general practitioner nearest to your home, or the specialist best suited for your needs, may be gotten simply by calling the Local I-S Health Plan Consultant at WA 4-4540 or by calling the Associated Physicians Medical Group at BU 8-4210. All night calls should be made to BU 8-4210.

The Local I-S Welfare Board is working to broaden the scope of services to the membership. To do this they have taken classes in welfare counseling designed to enable them to best guide I-S members to the public or private agencies most suited to their individual needs. Their byword is—For the members of Local I-S the best of service is none too good!





# Wagner Victory Opens Political Action Door

The resounding victory of Robert Wagner in the New York City mayoralty election, along with the triumphs of other Democratic Party candidates in the city and in nearby New Jersey reflects a growing dissatisfaction with the policies and actions of the Eisenhower administration in Washington.

In addition to the hundreds of thousands of disenchanted who bolted from the GOP there were the millions who supported the Democratic Party in their desire to return to the programs of the New Deal and the Fair Deal.

There can be no doubt that the large numbers of people who accepted the President's campaign promises at face value are becoming disillusioned at a rapid pace.

Those who eagerly looked forward to a reduction of the tremendous tax burden they bear have had cause for increasing alarm as administration spokesmen talked of a federal sales tax or a manufacturers excise tax.

Those who, based on his words, had expected the President to move vigorously in the fight against discrimination have found nothing in his actions to support their hopes.

Those who accepted his promise of leadership in the crusade for peace still await some sign that

the President is prepared to sit down and talk constructively to that end.

## New Opportunities

The election of Robert Wagner, who had the backing of the vast majority of organized labor in New York, offers us new opportunities on the political action front.

Mr. Wagner spoke out sharply on many basic issues. In reply to a series of questions addressed to him by Local 1-S NEWS he clearly stated his opposition to the fifteen cent fare; he was equally sharp in his belief that the 3 per cent city sales tax could be, and should be reduced. He minced no words in his opposition to the 15 per cent rent increase. He stands for a \$300 million dollar low rent housing program and the building of more schools for the children of our city. He is dedicated to the creation of a commission on human rights, with enforcement power, to eliminate discrimination in housing, education, employment and all other areas.

But we know that Mayor-elect Wagner is going to need every bit of help we can give him if he is to be able to carry out his program.

We know that many old-guard politicians jumped on his bandwagon and will do all they can to



Mayor-elect Robert Wagner

keep the City of New York busy at doing "business as usual."

It is up to us to help guarantee the new deal the people voted for. It is up to us, through our program of organized political action, to speak up on issues—to let our new Mayor know that we back his program because it is ours, too—and that we will do all we can to help him carry it out.

In a telegram sent to Mr. Wagner as early returns showed him to be the victor, President Sam Kovenetsky said:

"Local 1-S, United Department Store Workers of America, CIO, representing 8,800 Macy Workers, congratulates you on your tremendous victory. Much now needs to be done to right the wrongs of many years. We are confident that your door will remain open to the representatives of the people of our city. We know that such co-operation will restore to the City of New York its fine reputation of political and economic liberalism and integrity. Every best wish for the future."

# Living Costs Hit New All-Time High

The cost of living hit its fourth consecutive all-time high in the month ending September 15, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics announced with an air of embarrassment.

The announcement—and the Bureau's slightly pink cheeks—came only a week after President Eisenhower told a news conference that living costs were flattening out despite the peaks reached in the previous three months.

The index figure went up two-tenths of 1 per cent between mid-August and mid-September, from 115 to 115.2. It was the seventh straight month it has moved upward by a total of 1.2 per cent from the 1953 low of 113.4 on February 15. That was less than a month after the Republican Administration took office, the echoes of its campaign pledges to halt the rise still echoing in a hopeful public's ears.

The latest jump reflected higher prices in every item in the BLS

market basket except food. A rise of three-tenths of 1 per cent in that item, however, was not enough to offset other hikes.

The largest increase was in apparel costs, which went up 1 per cent during the month. Rent of medical care each rose one-tenth of 1 per cent. Other items showed fractional increases.

The drop in food prices, sparked by the fact that fresh fruits and vegetables showed a seasonal decline amounting to 5.4 per cent. Meats, poultry and fish were one-half of 1 per cent, but other prices soared 4.5 per cent.

The index reading showed the cost of living 1 per cent higher than a year ago, and 13.2 per cent above the figure on June 15, 1953, just before the Korean war started.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicted the country will have about the same amount of food and pay about the same prices in 1954 as it did in 1953.

## Here are the cumulative figures for the BLS Index:

Period	Index	Period	Old Index	New Index
1939 monthly average	99.4	1950: June 15	170.2	
1943 monthly average	123.6	1951: June 15	185.5	
1944 monthly average	125.5	1952: June 15	191.1	
1945 monthly average	128.4	1953: Jan. 15	190.3	113.4
1946 monthly average	139.3	Feb. 15	188.6	113.4
1947 monthly average	159.2	Mar. 15	188.8	113.4
1948 monthly average	171.2	Apr. 15	188.3	113.4
1949 monthly average	169.1	May 15	188.8	113.4
1950 monthly average	171.2	June 15	190.9	113.4
1951 monthly average	185.9	July 15		113.4
1952 monthly average	190.6	Aug. 15		113.4
1953 monthly average	189.2 (old index)	Sept. 15		115.2
1953 monthly average	114.2 (new index)			

## PERSONALS

**FOR RENT**—2½ rooms, furnished or unfurnished in private house. Private entrance and private shower and toilet. Kitchen privileges. 212 Avenue Y (near 22nd St.) in Sheepshead Bay section of Brooklyn. Phone NI 8-6349 at any time.

**FOR SALE**—¾ coat, beaver collar and sable dyed squirrel jacket, both size 12. Man's coat size 40. Phone NA 8-5884 after 7 P.M.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

**MEDICAL PLAN**—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

**BLOOD BANK**—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

# TO THE EDITOR

## HEARTFELT THANKS

Please accept the most heartfelt thanks from my wife, a member of Local 1-S, and myself for the kind consideration offered by her co-workers, managers and the union in general for the words of cheer, get well cards and the many other ways they have expressed sympathy during her illness in the hospital and ever since her return home. May I assure you one and all that your very kind cooperation is adding wonderfully to her recovery.

Through this medium I wish to offer special thanks to the Welfare Board for the beautiful gift sent by Mrs. Chris Murphy and to Mr. Pat Favoino for his visit.

Thanking you again I sincerely wish that in the years ahead prosperity and strength will grow with the Union.

Sincerely,  
Samuel Charles, for  
Amy Charles, J. 14

## IT'S TIME

It's time to thank you again for remembering me when I was ill. I was so glad to add your card to my "collection," but the arrival of my book made me know that Local 1-S is a real friendly, thoughtful organization.

Thank you very, very much!

Sincerely,  
Florence O. Faires, 249 Dept.

## MANY THANKS

Many thanks for your kindness and sympathy everyone has shown in my recent loss.

The flowers and cards helped me to realize how wonderful it is to have so many thoughtful friends.

My family joins me in thanking you for everything.

Cecil Schauer, W10

## GREATLY APPRECIATED

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your wonderful help and thoughtfulness during

my recent illness and operation.

It was a great relief to my husband and myself to know you were behind us and I assure you it was greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,  
Grace Kinnaman, 164 Dept.

## SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE

I have already written the Welfare Board in White Plains to thank them for their lovely card and gift sent to me during my illness. And I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation

to you for the excellent Health Plan which Local 1-S maintains.

Few of us are aware of the wonderful coverage given us through the Union Health Plan until we have occasion to use it. It is one of the outstanding features of the contract.

On behalf of my husband and myself, we send our heartfelt thanks for your very substantial assistance during a very critical period.

Sincerely,  
Ann M. Condon, W12

# Union Defeats Macy Plan For Pharmacy Lay-Offs

A layoff of two pharmacists was narrowly averted when the Union stepped in and insisted that Macy's was looking for an easy solution to the company's problem at the expense of the workers.

Vice President Phil Hoffstein and Administrator Tom Raffaele, at a meeting with the pharmacists, determined that the entire department would work together to head off the company's plan to cut the work force. Out of that meeting came a meeting with Macy officials.

As a direct result of the vigorous opposition of the Union to the company's proposed lay-offs, Macy's reversed itself.

Instead of going ahead with the plan to reduce the number of people in the department Macy's agreed to make no lay-offs for at least six months. At that time, according to their commitment to the Union, they will have the right to re-examine the situation.

Said Vice-President Hoffstein, "The fact that the Union has saved the jobs of two more workers

speaks for itself. The people of the Pharmacy Department are to be congratulated for standing firm in the face of Macy's threat. Their cooperation played a big part in making this Union victory possible."

## WHITE PLAINS AIDS COMMUNITY CHEST

Members of Local 1-S in the White Plains store conducted a whirlwind one day campaign in support of the Community Chest and broke all their previous records in the process.

Sparkplugged by Administrator Pat Favoino, working in conjunction with Store Manager Gould, the Shop Stewards won everyone's admiration with the skill with which they went about their pleasant task.

Upwards of \$250, or more than 75 per cent over last year, was raised for the Chest, which is comparable with New York's Greater N. Y. Fund.

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